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POLITICAL MATTERS

COUNTRY Chile/Cuba REPORT NO. CS-3/435,859
SUBJECT Activities of the Christian Democratic Party in Chile with Regard to Cuba DATE DISTR. 2 May 1960
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CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT. EXCEPT FOR THE BRACKETS
DATE OF INFO. 13-20 April 1960 REFERENCES RD
PLACE & DATE ACQ. Chile, Santiago (21 April 1960) FIELD REPORT NO. HCS-3933
SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: U.S. resident in Chile (B); from a Chilean with numerous contacts among Chilean students (B). Appraisal of Content: 2.

- During their visit to Chile the members of the Cuban co-ordinating group held several meetings with Communists and Socialists, but refused an invitation to confer with representatives of the Chilean Christian Democratic Party (PDC). One Christian Democratic youth leader in Santiago suspected that the Cuban Government's harassment and forced exile of Dr. Jose Ignacio Laso, Cuban Christian Democratic leader, was the real reason for the Cubans' reluctance to meet with the Chilean Christian Democrats. The Cuban visitors did, however, have a session with the executive council of the Federacion de Estudiantes de Chile (FECH), at which they talked of "the common enemy" and discussed plans for the Latin American Youth Congress (LAYC) scheduled to be held in Habana in July 1960.

The PDC in Chile is now thoroughly split on the Cuban question. The left wing of the party is for supporting the CASTRO revolution regardless of the consequences. The other group, led by Eduardo Frei Montalva, is for a policy of patience and continued observation.

Radomir Romic, a leader of the left wing of the PDC, also prepared the second letter which the FECH sent to President Eisenhower. Regarding the proposed visit of the university student leaders to the United States at the invitation of President Eisenhower, Bernardino Canhueza, a Christian Democrat, has been named to replace Rolando Cerino as the student representative from the University of Concepcion. All members of the group intend to visit Cuba on their return trip. The FECH is also planning to petition the Cuban Embassy in Santiago to allow three more members, including a Christian Democrat, a rightist, and a representative of the Moviente de Accion Popular (FRAP), to join the group when it reaches Cuba. Some Christian Democrats believe that it would be a good idea for their representative, who would be Octavio Mada, to remain in Cuba for two months to keep informed on arrangements for the LAYC and to make certain that the guarantees promised to the Christian Democrats for attending the congress are honored.

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